

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1.       A method for preparing a disk drive of a computing system for test in plural  
2 phases, each phase comprising the steps of:

3                   a)       recording a plurality of test files of varying sizes to a partition of the  
4 disk drive in a recording sequence until the free space of the partition is less than a  
5 predetermined value; and thereafter

6                   b)       deleting a portion of the plurality of test files from the partition in a  
7 deletion sequence, the deletion sequence being different from both the recording sequence  
8 and a reverse of the recording sequence.

1                   2.       The method of claim 1 wherein a processing phase comprises step a)  
2 and step b), the method further comprising the steps of:

3                   c)       measuring a performance parameter of the disk drive prior to the  
4 processing phase; and

5                   d)       measuring the performance parameter after the processing phase.

1                   3.       The method of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:  
2 e)       performing a second processing phase after step d); and  
3 f)       measuring the performance parameter after the second processing  
4 phase.

1                   4.       The method of claim 1 wherein the recording step a) comprises the  
2 steps of:

3                   a1)       generating a random number uniformly distributed between a  
4 minimum file size and a maximum file size;

5                   a2)       creating a next test file;

6                   a3)       writing the random number bytes to the next test file; and

7                   a4)     repeating steps a1)–a3) until the free space is less than the random  
8     number; and  
9                   a5)     repeating steps a1)–a4) a predetermined number of times.

1                   5.     The method of claim 4 wherein the predetermined number of times  
2     equals ten.

1                   6.     The method of claim 4 wherein the deleting step b) comprises the  
2     steps of:  
3                   b1)     generating a second random number between one and a maximum  
4     number of test files;  
5                   b2)     deleting the second random number test file when it exists; and  
6                   b3)     repeating steps b1)–b2) a second predetermined number of times.

1                   7.     The method of claim 6 wherein the second predetermined number of  
2     times is equal to one-half the number of test files present prior to the deleting step b).

1                   8.     A computer program product comprising a computer readable  
2     medium carrying program means for preparing a disk drive of a computing system for test,  
3     the computer program product comprising:  
4                   code means for recording a plurality of test files to a partition of the disk  
5     drive until a free space of the partition is less than a predetermined value; and  
6                   code means for deleting a portion of the plurality of test files from the  
7     partition.